

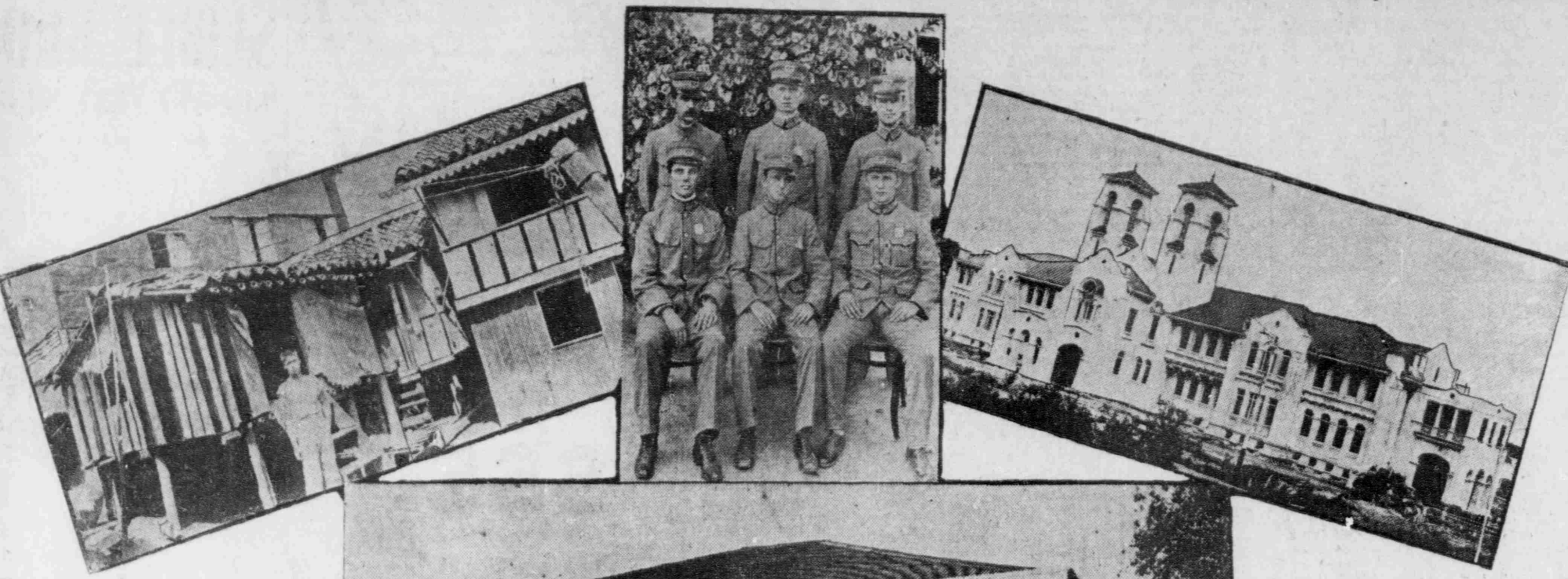
# Work Done in The Philippine Islands

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Breeding Place of the Plague.

Squad of American Sanitary Officers.

The Government Laboratory.



MANILA—The Americans have fairly won the right to be called the champion house-cleaners of the world. Whatever may be said in criticism of our attempts at government in Spain's degenerate colonies, there can be no doubt concerning the success of our sanitary work. Although our disease fighters had much to overcome in Cuba and Porto Rico, it was not a marker to what they have encountered here.

Since the American occupation of the Philippines there has been a veritable plague of man, beast and bird. The cholera has claimed upwards of 200,000 victims, the rinderpest has destroyed fully 85 per cent of all the work animals in the islands, and the field crops have been ravaged by insect pests. Such a succession of calamities, although extremely disheartening, did not cause our officials to despair, and they have at last succeeded in stamping out the pestilence.

## The Prey of Evil Spirits.

Their work was made much more difficult on account of the poverty and ignorance of the people. It has been found that in the city of Manila, the center of all the civilization the islands possess, over half the people die without medical attending. They do not understand the use of medicine, believing that all their physical troubles are due to their being the prey of evil spirits. They explain cholera by saying that a black dog runs down the street and the plague follows it, attacking all whom Providence has selected as victims.

When a sick native is found curled up in the corner of his hut, and questioned as to what ails him, he invariably answers one of three things—headache, stomach ache, or fever. That is about as far as his idea of the character of disease goes. He objects to taking medicine because he is a fatalist, believing that when his time comes there is no use for him to resist the summons. As a substitute for medical treatment among the natives has been the ministrations of spirit doctors.

When one of them becomes ill, and a quack has been called in, he begins investigation by inquiring where the patient was when first afflicted and what he was doing at the time. He thereby pretends to determine the character of the spirit which infests the invalid, as well as the nature of the ailment. Should the sufferer have been at work outdoors, an animal will be ordered killed and its uncooked head left on a plate in the middle of the field to attract the anger of the evil genius which provoked the trouble.

If such treatment fails of immediate cure the patient is often moved to the house of a relative in order to evade the supposed baneful influence that caused the affliction. This removal is always undertaken at night in the dark of the moon. The body of the invalid is surrounded by men with drawn weapons to ward off the attack of the spirit in case it should become aware of the removal and attempt to interfere. If a black butterfly flies into a dwelling it is taken as a certain omen of death, and if a member of that household becomes ill it is almost impossible to cure him on account of his obstinate belief that he is doomed.

## Officers Killed by Rabble.

When the first cases of cholera appeared in Manila the officials understood that if they failed to keep the water supply pure there would be no hope of preventing the spread of the disease. The ignorant protests of the inhabitants against the measures used for their preservation threatened for a time to thwart the entire work. Two sanitary officers who were disinfecting a cistern were attacked by the rabble and killed. Another officer, who thought the men were trying to poison them.

The cholera parasite lives in water and vegetables. In order to prevent the spread of the germs the river which affords the water supply of Manila was guarded by soldiers for miles. The people were prevented from bathing in the stream, from washing their clothing in it, or from driving their animals in. All vegetables and green things in the market were at once destroyed and no more were allowed to be brought inside the city limits, whereupon the Americans were charged with an attempt to starve the populace.

That cholera can be controlled is proved by the fact that the United States Navy has on board were taken in charge by the sanitary officers, and not a single case occurred on any of them after the proper precautions had been taken. More heartening, however, was the fact that not a single case occurred at the army and navy club or the Oriente hotel, both of which were in the heart of the district where the disease was rampant. That the occupants of these establishments escaped can be explained in no way other than that they conformed strictly to the rules laid down for them by the health department.

## Cholera Claimed a Million.

The last cholera epidemic in the Philippines was in 1882, and at that time nearly a million people were lost. There is no reason to doubt that the consequences would have been equally as bad during the recent visitation had it not been for the precautions the natives were enforced to take by the American officials. When the people learn to obey the rules laid down by the board of health there will be little danger of future epidemics.

The difficulty of controlling contagious disease when the population arrays itself against the officials is shown by one incident which occurred during the recent epidemic. One morning it was discovered that fresh water was bubbling up through the sandy bay in a certain place. Some one circulated the story that Providence has wrought a miracle to rescue the people from the persecutions



Type of American House in Manila.

of the Americans. It was said that all who drank of this water need not fear the plague.

Before the officials heard of it dozens of people had become infected, because the "divine spring" was in reality nothing but the water escaping from a broken sewer and it was literally alive with cholera germs. That the people are being persuaded to forsake their superstitious ideas and avail themselves of the virtue of medicine is shown by the fact that the free dispensaries in Manila are now filling upwards of 30,000 prescriptions a month. For some time after these places were opened the natives would not go near them.

## "The Great Black Death."

Although cases of bubonic plague are constantly occurring in the Philippines, this dread disease does not spread here as rapidly as the cholera. But this does not signify that it is not equally as dangerous. In the middle ages this malady was called "The Great Black Death," and within three years it destroyed 25,000,000 people in Europe. Although it appears frequently in Manila, it has never spread to the interior of the islands. This is accounted for by the theory that rats are the distributors of plague, and they do not have a chance to reach the outlying ports because the inter-island steamers take on and discharge their cargo in the harbors instead of using wharves. Having accepted the theory that

plague is generally spread by rats, the health authorities have instituted a ruthless war against them. There are now forty official rat-catchers in Manila who are employed by the board of health. During the past year they have captured and destroyed over 300,000 of these pests. A premium of 5 cents per head is also paid to outsiders, and rat-catching has developed into quite an industry.

One unexplainable feature of the bubonic plague is that the Chinese are more susceptible to it than any other nationality here. The statistics show that there have been fourteen Chinamen struck by it for every Filipino, although the latter succumb to it readily. Americans rarely become afflicted, those who do generally being negroes or mulattoes who expose themselves by frequenting the filthy districts where the disease flourishes.

## Studying the Plague.

In order to acquire a better knowledge of the plague the scientists are constantly studying it. It is suspected that the germs are communicated to people by fleas or other insects which first become contaminated by contact with infected rats. The result of a number of interesting experiments has rather weakened this theory. It has been found that ants will contract the disease but that they do not die of it. Emulsions made from crushed bodies of ants, fleas, flies and mosquitoes have been injected into rats, mice and

guinea pigs, with only partially fatal results.

Inasmuch as these experiments did not establish with certainty whether plague was carried by insects, others were planned which more closely imitated the course of nature. A number of fleas were imprisoned in a jar containing the bodies of rats which had died of plague. After sufficient time had elapsed to allow them to become infected they were transferred to a cage containing several guinea pigs. The latter had been shaved in places and smeared with syrup to attract the fleas. Although this experiment was repeated a number of times the guinea pigs were not taken sick.

The same flies when crushed and injected into the bodies of the little patients caused their death. This would seem to prove that although the insects carry the germs they do not impart the same through ordinary contact. Another puzzling thing in connection with the investigations made in Manila is that the fleas found on rats are different from any species which has heretofore been described. It was found that they would not bite human beings at all, and so could hardly have been instrumental in spreading the plague here.

## Dysentery Is Universal.

The most universal malady in the Philippines is amebic dysentery. It is endemic and is responsible for more

than 50 per cent of all the disability among government employees and civilians. It is caused by a parasite which lives in water and vegetables. It is said the only sure way of avoiding it is to take nothing into the stomach which has not been cooked. Distilled water is used generally by the white inhabitants of Manila, but this is easily contaminated if bottles or glasses are washed in hygienic water by careless servants.

Lettuce is almost a certain distributor of the germs. Recently some stalks grown at the agricultural experiment farm were examined. After these had been subjected to four washings, any one of which was more thorough than the usual cook would have given, there were enough parasites in the last water to infect a monkey into which it was injected. While there are foreign residents in Manila who have lived here safely for years without taking precautions against dysentery, thousands who have used every preventive within their power have contracted it.

Rinderpest, the animal plague, which is said to have destroyed 85 per cent of the cattle in the Philippines, is a highly deadly and contagious disease. Few animals seized with it recover. Some authorities assert that this dreadful malady is 2,000 years old. It has appeared at different times in most all portions of the world. Its most frequent ravages have been in South Africa, India and Australia. It appeared in the Philippines in 1882. By the simplest definition it is an ulceration of the intestines.

## Fighting Animal Plague.

The usual method of transmission is by means of infected ground, but it can also be conveyed by buckets and other objects which have been in contact with sick animals. It is supposed that men working where the disease is present carry the infection on their clothing or shoes. Experience has shown that when once an animal becomes sick with rinderpest the trouble cannot be arrested, so the efforts of the scientists have been directed mainly to preventative measures. They say that when an animal shows symptoms it should be isolated at once. If possible it is best to fence it in where it is found, immediately removing the remainder of the herd to a safe distance. When the animal dies, as it likely will, the ground should be thoroughly disinfected and burned over. Now that the infected has been arrested in the Philippines it is proposed to entirely abolish it by immunizing all animals by inoculation.

The board of health is using heroic measures to improve the sanitary condition here. There is an official slaughter house where all stock intended for the city market must be killed under the supervision of inspectors. All vegetables offered for sale must also pass examination. Having discovered that the plague was most frequent in filthy localities, the sanitary officers have persisted in their efforts to cleanse all such. Fully 10,

000 houses are inspected every month and about 500 dwellings which were hopelessly foul have been destroyed by fire.

## A Government Menagerie.

In order to thoroughly study the cause of all disease, as well as measures for the prevention and cure of the same, the government has built in Manila what is doubtless the finest laboratory ever constructed by any country in the world. There is a whole menagerie including horses, cattle, monkeys, goats, rabbits, guinea pigs, pigeons, chickens, etc., which are used for experimental purposes. The sheds where the animals are kept are fly proof and so clean that one could well spread his dinner on the spotless cement floors.

Aside from the researches in the interest of health, the laboratory is equipped to undertake the chemical and mechanical investigation of the properties of all raw products, the assaying of mineral substances, and to further the cause of botanical, entomological and zoological study. Thus the commercial interests of the United States will be served by determining the value of everything found in the archipelago. Although many thousands of dollars have been expended in constructing and equipping it, the results which have already been obtained in checking pestilence among man and beast are an ample return for the outlay.

## THE GIFT OF ABNER GRICE

Continued from Page 6.

—You never would have known I was here if you hadn't lied to them ladies and told 'em you wouldn't do anything. I know 'em. They'd gone to jail themselves first before they'd a-rounded on me. Don't you threaten me with your stick, or I'll break your neck down the stairs."

"None of that, my man," cried the squire, backing away from him. "I've come to help you, if you will keep a civil tongue in your head. I've lived with these real Christian slaves nearly six months, and have done my work as well as I knew how. Not a day passed but they had something nice to say about the squire; what a good man he was; what fine things he said; how kind he was, and all that. I was so sick of you I had to come out here to swear. You, with your come bigger than they own, having as much money in a week as they have in a year, what have you done for them? You saw them, year in and year out, go past your door, bringing

things to the sick and poor, and when they came to you and begged for others, you put your hand in your pocket, and they thought you were generous! You fat, old, stinking grumpus! What present have you ever given to them?"

"But, my dear man," stammered the squire, taken aback, "you don't understand. The Misses Bassett are ladies. You can't give alms to a lady." "A real gentleman would have found a way, if he wasn't all solid selfishness. What did the bottle of wine I drank cost you? And there are hundreds in your cellar, all for your own gullet. A gentleman would have bought something nice—china, a desk, a little cabinet, something of silver or gold that they couldn't give away—something pretty and useless, that ladies like, and he would have said: 'Miss Euphemia, or Miss Melitable, today is your birthday, and here's a little trinket just to show we ain't forgotten you.' That's what a gentleman would a-done. The poor can't give, and the rich don't think there isn't anything in that little cottage that them ladies can point to, with tears in their eyes (as there would be, for they think everybody's good) and say, 'The squire, bless 'im, gave us—'"

"Hold on, hold on," cried the squire, with a gulp in his throat, dropping his stick and placing a hand on the other's shoulder. "Don't say another word, and forgive me for the way I spoke to you. Let's talk business. Answer me this: Is burglary like drink? Can you keep your hands off things if you are in the way of temptation, or can't you?"

"Well, squire," said the man, mollified, but lowering suspiciously at him. "I might have cut your throat last night as you lay snoring fit to wake the dead, but—"

"Not snoring," cried the squire, quick anger rising to the surface again. "I never snore."

"I led me up from the basement like a fog horn. I took the keys from your trouser pocket, as I ain't got my skeleton key along, and so got into the cellar and the china closet. There was money in your pocket and a watch in your vest. I let 'em stay there."

"That's all right. I'll be your financial backer, and will set you up in business where you can make honest money. Are you willing?"

"I haven't had any too much money, either honest or dishonest, this while back. I'd like to try and earn a little." "Then, that's a bargain. And now if you prosper, you and I will buy a real silver service, and we'll present it to the aunties on the next birthday that comes to the cottage. I'd buy it myself, but I think they will treasure it more coming from two fools than from one. What do you say?"

"I'll be the other fool, squire," said Abner, with a reluctant grin.

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The store caters to all classes, hence the broad varieties. Brief description is given of a few suits selected at random:

- |  |         |   |         |
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| English Walking Suits in mannish gray mixtures; full 60 inch coat; double breasted front; full coat coat sleeve; velvet collar, strictly tailored. Special price . . . . . | \$25.00 | Gray Homespun Suit, 22 inches; corset fitting coat; lined with pearl gray skinner satin lining; tailored cuffs and collar of red velvet. Very chic—at the very low price of . . . . . | \$22.50 |
| Black herringbone Cheviot Suits, 22 inch coat, collarless neck inlaid with black velvet trimmed with buttons; box plaited skirt for . . . . .                              | \$25.00 | English Walking Suit—60 inch coat in Ladies' Cloth in navy blue and black; full lined coat, very handsome . . . . .   | \$32.50 |

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I want to talk to men who have pains and aches, who feel run down physically, who realize that the old "fire" and energy which was so evident in youth is absent now; men who can't stand the amount of exertion they could years ago. I want you—if that means you—to see what I have done for others who were just as bad off. That's my introduction. If a friend in whom you had confidence presented some one to you and said, "Jack, here's Brown; he has made good with me, and I trust him," wouldn't you trust him, too?

Now, if you don't feel right, I can cure you with my Electric Belt. If you are full of rheumatic pains, I can knock them out. I can pour oil into your joints and limber them up. I have often said that pain and electricity can't live in the same house, and I prove it every day.

Dr. McLaughlin: Dear Sir—Thanks to your treatment, I am completely cured of the sciatic nerve pain which has been a constant source of trouble to me for the last two months. When I came to you at that time I was thoroughly discouraged in my efforts to get relief, but now I feel like a new man, and all my energies are renewed. I am about to start out on a long prospecting trip, something I had intended to do for some time ago. The cure is permanent, as I have discontinued the application of the Belt some time since, but there is no return of a single symptom. Gratefully yours, W. H. JENKINSON.

If it were not for the prejudice due to the great number of fakes in the land, I would not be able to handle the business that would come to me. The "Free Belt" fraud and the "Free Drug" scheme, which are not free at all, have made every one skeptical, but I know that I have a good thing, and I'll hammer away until you know it.

One thing every man ought to know is this: Your body is a machine. It runs by the steam in your blood and nerves. When you begin to break down in any way you are out of steam. That's just what I want to give you back.

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Dear Sir—Am getting along fine, better than I dared to hope I would. My rheumatism is all gone, my stomach does not hurt me at all. The Belt beats all the medicine I ever took, and that is no small amount, for I suffered many years of needless torture before I came to you. Gratefully yours, C. E. BAYLES.

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